

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in this application. In the Office Action mailed November 02, 2005, the Examiner has rejected 1-30. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this application. The Office Action has been received and reviewed by the Applicants. Claims 1-30 are in the application. Claims 1, 6, 13, 16, 18-22, 24, 29 and 30 stand rejected and claims 11-12, claims 2-5, 7-10, 14-15, 17 and 25-28, as applied to claims 1, 6, 13, 23 and 20, stand objected to. This paper has amended claim 1 to more particularly point out that which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and has been amended to remove the "said computer" reference and replace it with the appropriate "said processor." The reference to element "204" has been added to page 8 starting on line 9 with a short description of the name and location of the element. This is in compliance with 37 CFR. 1.121(b) as requested by the Examiner and thus does not require an amendment of drawing in Figure 2.

Claims 1, 6, 13, 16, 18-22, 24, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,345,168 to Pitts (Pitts). The Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's statement that Pitts discloses a detach charger that "enables or disables said detach charger in response to a sheet weight of paper fed" and with the Examiner's assertion that technically a DC bias controls the detach charging system. It is well established that the ordinary meaning of a term refers to the ordinary meaning to a person skilled in the art at the time the application was filed after having read the claim term both in context of the claim and in the context of the entire specification.

As discussed in the Applicants' application, and clearly understood by those skilled in the art, the words "enables or disables" in the claims of an application, when given their ordinary meaning using the specification as a basis of that meaning, are not anticipated by Pitts. The detach charger described the

Applicants, has both an AC and a DC component in the charging/discharging function as the Applicants discuss on page 8, lines 27-31. The Pitts patent discusses the variation of the DC component only, as the Examiner has stated on pages 4-5 of the November 2, 2005 office action. It is well known that adjusting the DC component simply controls the balance of the charging/discharging function but that it does not turn on and off or otherwise enable and disable the detach discharger. The examiner's statement that adjusting the DC component in any way enables and disables the detach charger is incorrect. The charger described and claimed in Pitts is never turned on and off based on paperweight. Pitts only varies the amount of discharging. The commonly assigned patents 4,728,880 and 6,097,913, which have their entire contents incorporated as stated on page 7, lines 16-17, discuss this aspect of the detach charger in more detail.

Pitts never discusses turning off the detach charger during the operation, instead the Pitts patent discusses adjusting the DC bias of the charger to modify the discharging balance. In contrast the detach charger of the present application, is either enabled or disabled (on or off) which results in the fact that there is no need to automatically adjust the "bias" on the charger as Pitts does in order to apply a variable level of charging along the length of the paper. In addition, the device described in the Pitts patent requires knowledge of both the paperweight and the paper size as well as processing time to understand and thus also the profile of the DC bias signal as well as when and how long to apply it. In the present invention the only information that is required is the weight of the paper, and specifically in the preferred embodiment, if the paper weight is above or below a limit. Accordingly the charger is turned on or off for the entire sheet. No differential treatment is needed and knowledge of the paper size is also not required.

Independent claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 20, and claim 29 claim a detach charger that is enabled and/or disabled in response to a sheet weight of paper fed into the printing apparatus. The specification clearly describes that when the power supply is shut off (AC power) "the charger is not enabled" and that the charger

“is enabled by applying an AC voltage to the charger wire”. (pg 8, lines 27-31).

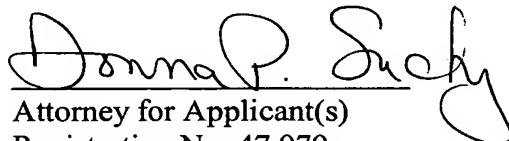
The specification continues to describe the enable signal that is sent when the weight of the receiver sheet S is greater than the receiver weight limit.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Pitts does not anticipate the present claimed invention (independent claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 20, and 29) or the claims dependent thereon.

The other cited art does not add anything to Pitts that would make it obvious to replace the DC signal used in Pitts with the “AC” control claimed by the Applicants. In fact, as discussed above, Pitts does not even discuss controlling the AC. Finally, with respect to the other art cited, the Applicants respectfully submit that they do not provide sufficient objective motivation, for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, to modify Pitts in the manner attempted.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-30 are allowable in their present form, without a restriction, and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 47,979

Donna P. Suchy/tam/tt
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-722-9844
Facsimile: 585-477-1148

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.